
Minutes

Public Art/Art in Private Development Committee

Subcommittee of Tempe Municipal Arts Commission

October 14, 2009

Minutes of the Public Art/Art in Private Development (AIPD) Committee meeting that took place at 5 p.m. on Oct. 14, 2009, in the Tempe Center for Arts (TCA) Conference Room, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, AZ.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Betsy Fahlman – Chair
Nikie Crawford
Judy Ellison
Shirlee King

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Robert Bortfeld

City Staff Present:

Rachael Peterson, Cultural Services Division Administrative Assistant
Maja Switzer, Arts Coordinator

Guest Present:

Chuck Buss - Chairperson, University Heights Neighborhood Association

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

- Betsy Fahlman called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – University Heights Neighborhood Association Presentation

- Betsy Fahlman, Public Art/AIPD Committee Chair, introduced Chuck Buss, Chairperson of Tempe's University Heights Neighborhood Association, and welcomed C. Buss to the meeting.
- C. Buss reported that the University Heights Neighborhood Association received a City of Tempe Neighborhood Grant in the amount of \$12,000 for two artist-adorned irrigation standpipes. Buss further explained that the neighborhood association selected visual artist Esmerelda DeLaney to complete the project; DeLaney's standpipes will depict home styles from the neighborhood's residential development as well as iconic cultural, household and automotive images reflecting the area's 1950s heritage. Buss added that one of the standpipes will feature a locking aluminum and lexan weatherproof display case box for the posting of neighborhood news, events and association contact information.

- C. Buss further reported that E. DeLaney's mosaic tiles will be affixed to permanent square surfaces; Buss stated that the University Heights Neighborhood extends as far west as Dorsey, east to McClintock Dr., south to Apache Blvd. and north to 8TH St.
- B. Fahlman praised the University Heights Neighborhood Association for their project design and asked that C. Buss invite the Public Art/AIPD Committee members to the project's dedication ceremony.
- B. Fahlman inquired about a start date for the project; Buss stated that his contact is Elizabeth Thomas, City of Tempe Neighborhood Services Specialist. Buss added that both he and E. Thomas will determine the project's start date and will forward additional project information to the Public Art/AIPD Committee.
- B. Fahlman stated that the Public Art/AIPD Committee approved of the project; B. Fahlman expressed her excitement to see an additional standpipe project come to fruition within the City of Tempe.

Agenda Item 3 – Hallman Park Artist

- Betsy Fahlman reported that the Evelyn Hallman Park Public Art Opportunity Panel Review took place at 9 a.m. on Sept. 24 in the Tempe Public Library Connections Café, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, AZ.
- B. Fahlman reminded the committee members that the budget for the Evelyn Hallman Park Public Art Opportunity is approximately \$38,500. Fahlman added that the panel reviewed and discussed 23 local artist submissions; Fahlman further reported that upon review and discussion of the artist submissions, the panel unanimously recommended the selection of coLAB studio, LLC (Matthew and Maria Salenger), to fulfill the public art element at Evelyn Hallman Park.
- Maja Switzer, Arts Coordinator, encouraged the committee members to review coLAB's cover letter and resume included in the committee member's meeting packet.
- M. Switzer presented the committee with 10 digital images submitted by coLAB studio, LLC; Switzer explained that the images were part of the project's required submission materials.
- B. Fahlman noted that coLAB, LLC, has a good sensibility of the desert combined with an interest in education and engaging the public; Fahlman added that coLAB studio, LLC, is best-known for its 9/11 memorial in Phoenix, AZ.
- Judy Ellison inquired about the artist selection panel process; B. Fahlman stated that the City of Tempe issues an RFQ Call to Artists for its public art opportunities. Fahlman explained the panel review process to J. Ellison and added that the panel is put in place to help hire a mind, as well as an artist, for the project.
- M. Switzer reported that both Matthew and Maria Salenger regularly walk the path within Evelyn Hallman Park; both Matthew and Maria are familiar with the park and are excited to participate in the park's public artwork opportunity.

MOTION: Shirlee King moved to recommend the selection of coLAB studios, LLC (Matthew and Maria Salenger), to fulfill the public artwork element at Evelyn Hallman Park.

SECOND: Judy Ellison seconded.

DECISION: The Public Art/AIPD Committee recommends the selection of coLAB studios, LLC (Matthew and Maria Salenger), to fulfill the public artwork element at Evelyn Hallman Park.

Agenda Item 4 – Deaccession of Scudder Park Public Artwork

- Betsy Fahlman reported that Barbara Grygutis' piece titled, "Temple," located in Scudder Park, was evaluated in 2005; upon evaluation, it was determined that the piece's restoration cost exceeded the remaining project budget.
- B. Fahlman further reported that an updated master plan for Scudder Park was released in June, 2007; Fahlman stated that the master plan included the removal of "Temple" from the park and was approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Fahlman added that the Scudder Park Neighborhood is not interested in keeping or continuing to maintain the B. Grygutis' sculpture.
- B. Fahlman noted that the Scudder Park artwork is site-specific; relocation of the sculpture piece is not an option; therefore, deaccession of B. Grygutis' "Temple" is necessary.
- B. Fahlman explained that the City of Tempe Guidelines for Review and Deaccession of Public Art have been approved by the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission; Fahlman stated that the City of Tempe will provide B. Grygutis with 60 days to remove or otherwise dispose of the "Temple" sculpture. Fahlman added that B. Grygutis will be given the opportunity to apply for the Scudder Park Call to Artists RFQ when it's issued in the spring of 2010. Fahlman further added that the Scudder Park project budget is \$12,000.

MOTION: Judy Ellison moved to recommend the deaccession of the "Temple" public artwork element at Scudder Park.

SECOND: Nikie Crawford seconded.

DECISION: The Public Art/AIPD Committee recommends to approve the deaccession of the "Temple" public artwork element at Scudder Park.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Art/AIPD Update

- Betsy Fahlman encouraged the Public Art/AIPD Committee members to participate in a two-hour-long driving tour of public art and art in private development (AIPD) artwork elements within the City of Tempe at 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 4. Fahlman asked Maja Switzer to confirm the date and time of the tour.
- B. Fahlman announced that she is teaching a public art seminar course at Arizona State University's downtown Phoenix campus; Fahlman encouraged the Public Art/AIPD Committee members to audit the course that is set to take place from 1 – 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 19, 2010.
- Nikie Crawford encouraged the committee members to view the "Faces" exhibition on display at the Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA) through February 6, 2010.
- Shirlee King announced that her niece, Linda S. Clare, recently completed and published a novel titled, "The Fence My Father Built." King reported that the novel is available for purchase through Barnes & Noble and Borders bookstores.

Agenda Item 6 - Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Prepared by: Rachael Peterson

Reviewed by: Maja Switzer

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